THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI S. REGUPATHY): (a) to (c) The Ministry of Environment and Forests has not yet issued any guidelines on Multistake Partnership for afforestation yet. It has though, mooted a Multi Stakeholder Partnership (MSP) framework for forestation on degraded lands in the country. The proposed framework envisages a tripartite arrangement between the land owning agency, the local village community and the sponsor who may be a company, firm, user group, trust, society or organization in public or private sector.

Degraded forests to pulp and paper manufacturers

2507. SHRI KALRAJ MISHRA:
SHRI SANTOSH BAGRODIA:

Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state

(a) the details of Multi Stakeholder Partnership for afforestation Scheme;

(b) whether the Government have offered degraded forests to the pulp and paper manufacturers under the scheme;

(c) if so, whether Government have ascertained the views of local inhabitants over such scheme; and

(d) the steps which have been taken to protect the interests of the inhabitants of such degraded forests?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI S. REGUPATHY): (a) The Ministry of Environment and Forests has not yet issued any guidelines on Multi Stakeholder Partnership for afforestation yet. It. has though, mooted a Multi-Stakeholder Partnership (MSP) framework for forestation on degraded lands in the country. The proposed framework envisages a tripartite arrangement between the land owning agency, the local village community and the sponsor who may be a company, firm, user group, trust, society or organization in public or private sector.

(b) No, Sir.

(c) and (d) Do not arise.

Increasing forest cover

2508. SHRI GIREESH KUMAR SANGHI: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) the percentage of area covered by forests in our country according to the latest Government records;

(b) the annual income earned by Government by way of auctions of forestcoupe along with the quantity of timber items exported to other countries during the last three years; and

(c) the steps which have been initiated by Government for increasing forest cover including social and farm forestry and the estimated income generated in the private sector during the said period?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI S.REGUPATHY): (a) The percentage of area covered by forests in the country is 20.64.

(b) and (c) The information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the House.

Project for cleaning of Yamuna

2509. SHRI TARIQ ANWAR: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Government have started a project for cleaning of Yamuna water in Delhi;

(b) if so, whether the project is successful;

(c) the amount of expenditure which has been incurred during this project; and

(d) the reasons for its failure?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI NAMO NARAIN MEENA): (a) to (d) Yamuna Action Plans (YAP) have been taken up by Government of India with the assistance of the Japan Bank for International Cooperation in a phased manner for undertaking pollution abatement works for the river Yamuna. Under the phase-I of YAP launched in April, 1993, 753.25 million litres per day (mld) of sewage treatment capacity was created, of which 30 mld in Delhi. YAP-I was declared closed in February, 2003.

Under the YAP-II, which commenced in December, 2004 at an approved cost of Rs. 624 crore, major portion of the outlay *i.e.* Rs. 387.17 crore, has been allocated to Delhi. A sewage treatment capacity of 135 mld is envisaged to be created under YAP-II in Delhi. In addition, projects for the rehabilitation of 324 mld treatment capacity and rehabilitation/laying of trunk sewers for a length of 30.82 kms are also envisaged under the YAP-II. So far under YAP-II, an amount of Rs. 29.5 crore has been released to the implementing agencies in Delhi for implementation of the sanctioned schemes. In addition to the above Action Plan, the Government of Delhi has also taken up large scale non-sewerage, sewerage and sewage treatment works out of their own plan funds.

Implementation of the river pollution abatement works is an ongoing and continuous activity under which various schemes of pollution abatement are implemented by the Government based upon the estimated pollution loads. The quality of water in Yamuna river has not shown the desired improvement, particularly in Delhi, due to enormous increase in pollution load and lack of fresh water in the river during lean period.

Role of RCCF in protection of forests and wildlife

2510. SHRI S.M. LALJAN BASHA: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have a Regional Chief Conservator of Forests posted at Bangalore;

(b) the duties and role assigned to him in protection of forests and wildlife;